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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S.D.A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Livestock-Poultry Inventory Up

A net increase in the number of livestock and poultry took place in 1951 for the third successive year. The Crop Reporting Board's estimate January 1 tops that of a year earlier by 4 percent, compared with 3 percent in 1950 (revised), and a 1 percent increase in 1949.

6 Million More Cattle

The 88 million head of cattle and calves on farms compares with 82 million year ago, a 7 percent increase. Present number is an all-time record. Previous record, in 1945, was 85.6 million; 1941-50 average 79.5 million head.

Million More Hogs

Hog numbers are up 2 percent, about 1 million head. The 63.9 million head compares with 62.9 million year ago and 62 million for the 1941-50 average.

Two Percent More Stock Sheep

Stock sheep numbers are up 588 thousand head, a little over 2 percent. The estimate is 27.8 million compared with 27.3 million head year ago. Until 1950 numbers had been declining for 8 years. Record low—Jan. 1, 1950—was 26.2 million; peak Jan. 1, 1942 was 49.3 million; 10-year average, 37.9 million head. All sheep totaled 31.7 million head on Jan. 1 compared with 30.6 million year earlier; 10-year average, 43.8 million head.

Horses and Mules Continue Decline

Horses declined 12 percent; mules 7 percent. Continues the 25-year decline. All horses on farms are estimated at 4.4 million head compared with 5 million year ago and 8.1 million 1941-50 average. Peak inventory of 21.4 million horses was reached in 1915—5 times the present number. The 1.9 million mules on farms compares with 2 million year ago, 2.2 million two years ago, and 3.1 million average. Peak in 1925 of 5.9 million mules was 3 times the current number.

Fewer Texas Goats

Texas goats, mostly Angoras, are estimated at 2 million head compared with 2.2 a year earlier. The decline is about 6 percent. Peak of 3.5 million was reached in 1942.

Turkey Numbers Up—But Below Average

Turkeys on farms Jan. 1 (excluding turkey fryers) numbered 5.8 million. This tops the number a year ago by 15 percent but is 8 percent below the 1941-50 average. There were 16 percent more breeder turkey hens than a year ago and 12 percent more toms and market birds. Farmers have expressed an intention of raising 11 percent more turkeys this year than last.

More Chickens

Chickens (excluding commercial broilers) totaled about 453.5 million Jan. 1, about 2 percent more than a year earlier. The number year earlier was 442.7 million; 10-year average, 486.8 million. The largest increases from year earlier were in Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina and Washington.

Percentage Increases by Groups

Livestock numbers increased 4 percent, poultry 3 percent. Meat animals (all cattle, hogs, and sheep) increased 5 percent. Milk stock (milk cows, heifers, and

calves) showed a slight decline. And the overall work stock decline was 11 percent.

Estimates Are Revised

The numbers shown are on the revised level of estimates of livestock and poultry on farms January 1. The revised estimates were derived from an analysis of the 1950 Census of Agriculture enumeration of livestock and poultry on farms, together with other available data. Revised estimates by States for the years 1945 to 1950, inclusive, are shown in Statistical Bulletin No. 106, which is available from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics upon request.

Values Per Head With Comparisons

Cattle per head, farm value Jan. 1, \$179. Value year ago, \$160; 10-year average, 85.20.
Milk cows, 2 years and over, \$250 per head; year ago, \$218; 10-year average, \$123.
Hogs, \$29.90; year ago, \$33.30; 10-year average, \$25.30.
Stock sheep, \$28.00 per head; year ago, \$26.50; 10-year average, \$11.40.
Horses are valued at \$45.80; year ago, \$43.50; 10-year average, \$62.70.
Mules, \$72.30; year ago, \$81.60; 10-year average, \$124.
Turkeys per head, \$7.00; year ago, \$6.48; 10-year average, \$5.53.
Chickens, per head, \$1.53; year ago, \$1.46; 10-year average, \$1.21.

Livestock Valued at \$19.6 Billion

Farm value of livestock and poultry reached a record of 19.6 billion dollars on January 1, 1952, 14 percent above last year, the previous high, and 90 percent above the 10-year average. Except for hogs, horses and mules, the total value of every species was above last year.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS
AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Dec. 15 1951	Jan. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1952
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.22	2.20	2.45
Corn, bu.dol.	1.69	1.68	1.78
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.4	10.4	13.3
Cotton, lb.ct.	40.34	38.70	34.35
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.93	2.07	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	17.60	17.40	21.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ...dol.	27.50	27.20	21.10
Veal calves, 100 lb. ...dol.	31.30	31.50	23.70
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	28.50	28.20	23.20
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 69.1	1/ 76.9	76.6
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ...dol.	1/ 4.74	1/ 2/4.87	4.82
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	23.4	25.1	30.7
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 44.1	1/ 40.9	50.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.
2/ Preliminary.

Winter Weather Favorable to Crops

Weather and other crop-production factors were chiefly favorable during January. Fall-sown wheat on February 1 had come through the winter satisfactorily. The crop had shown growth as far North as Kansas. And only limited damage was suffered from soil blowing. Top soil moisture was adequate to ample in most areas, except in parts of the Great Plains.

Larger Orange Crop Estimate

Orange crop, now forecast at 117.7 million boxes, shows an increase from a month ago of 450 thousand boxes. About a million-box increase for Florida was partly offset by a half-million decrease for California and a 50-thousand-box decrease in Arizona. About 32.3 million boxes of oranges had been harvested by February 1, leaving about 85.4 million boxes for use from the '51-52 crop. Last year at this time 81.2 million boxes were available for use. The '50-51 orange crop was 116.8 million boxes.

More Grapefruit

Of the estimated grapefruit crop of 40.7 million boxes, about 26.6 million boxes are still available for use. Last year at this time about 25.8 million boxes were available. Total crop shows an increase of 790 thousand boxes over the estimate of a month ago. An increase in Florida more than offset a decrease in California. Grapefruit crop year ago totaled 46.6 million boxes.

Less Grapefruit Taken By Processors

Harvesting of grapefruit is running behind a year ago due to smaller tonnage taken by processors. To February 1, fresh users had taken 8.8 million boxes, processors 5.4 million; year ago, fresh users had taken 9.9 million boxes and processors 10.9 million boxes.

Nearly Average Crop of Lemons

Lemon production is estimated at 12.8 million boxes compared with 13.4 million year ago and 10-year average of 13 million.

Record Egg Production Last Month

January egg production was a new record for the month, topping January 1951 by 6 percent, topping average by about 29 percent. Production in January totaled 5.4 billion eggs compared with 5 billion year earlier and 4.2 billion for the 10-year average. Rate of lay per hen was a record and laying flock was 3 percent larger than a year ago.

Milk Production Continues Stable

Milk production in January was 8,847 million pounds as against 8,960 million year earlier and the 10-year average of 8,671 million pounds.

Eggs, 40.5 Cents in January

Farmers averaged 40.5 cents a dozen for eggs in mid-January. This compares with 51.1 cents in December and 42.6 cents in January last year.

Live Chickens, 25.1 Cents Pound

Chickens brought farmers an average of 25.1 cents a pound liveweight in mid-January; 24.3 cents a year earlier.

Hatchery Production Up a Fifth

Twenty-one percent more chicks were produced by commercial hatcheries in January than in the same month last year. The January total was 115.7 million chicks compared with 95.8 million in January last year. A large hatch is also expected in February. Number of eggs in incubators on Feb. 1 was 17 percent larger than a year ago.

Feed Supplies Down From Year Ago

Production of feed grains in 1951 was down 7 percent from 1950 and the lowest since 1947, although larger than in any of the 21 years prior to 1942. The supply of feed grains on farms per animal unit January 1, this year, was about 10 percent below last year.

Larger Feed Crops Called For

This year's production goals call for larger feed crops—15 percent more corn, 26 percent more grain sorghums, and 14 percent more barley.

Feed-Grain Disappearance

Disappearance of feed grains is expected to continue comparatively heavy during the remainder of the present (1951-52) feeding season, and carryover stocks into the 1952-53 season probably will be around a third smaller than at the beginning of the present season.

Turpentine Production Lower

The 52.4 million barrels of gum turpentine produced during the October-December quarter was 7 percent less than for the same quarter a year earlier. For the first 9 months of the season production was off 10 percent from a year earlier. (More details, including stocks, in BAE's Naval Stores Report of Feb. 15.)

Prices Received Down 2 Percent

At 300 percent of the 1910-14 average, prices received by farmers mid-January were down 5 index points, or nearly 2 percent, from mid-December. Prices were lower for eggs, turkeys, cotton and cottonseed, most meat animals, oranges and grapefruit.

Prices Paid Up 1 Percent

Prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) at 287 percent of the 1910-14 average rose 3 index points in mid-January from 284 in December. The rise was slightly over 1 percent and prices paid are at record high.

Farm Income

Farmers' realized net income totaled 15 billion dollars in 1951, up 2 billion from the postwar low in 1950, but still 2 billion less than the postwar high in 1947. Nonagricultural income, on the other hand, set a new record high in 1951, up more than a third from its 1947 level.

Civilian Employment Down From December

Total civilian employment in January was 59.7 million, down seasonally from the 61 million in December, but up a little from the 59 million at work a year ago. 2.1 million persons were unemployed in January; December 1.7 million; year ago, 2.5 million.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	January 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	300
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	287
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	105
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 291
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 300
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 498
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 587
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	January 1951	January 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	9.0	8.8
Eggs, (bil.).....	5.1	5.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 7051	4/ 6431
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 534	4/ 465
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 10538	4/ 11448
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 18790	4/ 18928

1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.

2/ December figure.

3/ January 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.

4/ Preceding calendar year under Federal inspection.